



**AUGUST TIP SAVINGS: Up to \$400/YR**

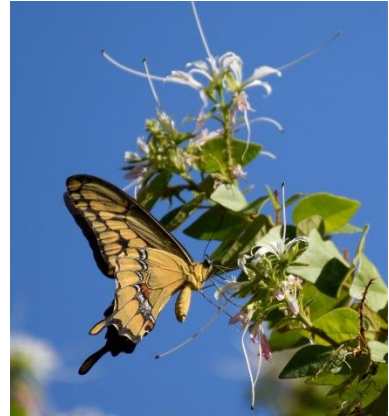
**Avoided Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>: Up to 1,200 lbs./YR**

# \$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

## INVITING WILDLIFE TO YOUR OWN BACKYARD

**Create a wildlife-friendly landscape to help restore lost habitat**

You hear about Monarch butterfly populations being on the decline and bees disappearing due to colony collapse disorder. Even many of our song birds are experiencing downward trends in population. Is there anything you can do to help? Fortunately, yes! Pollinators and birds worldwide are in decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, parasites and pesticides. Whether you have an apartment patio, a residential yard, a school garden, golf course or common area, you can create a wildlife-friendly garden or landscape that helps restore habitat.



### ✂ BASICS

Provide food such as native plants and flowers, shallow water sources, cover such as trees and shrubs and a place for wildlife to raise their young. For butterflies, as an example, this would mean specific plants, such as milkweed, for caterpillars to feed upon.

### ✂ LEARN WILDLIFE NEEDS

Many local organizations provide assistance. Did you know that the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center is located at 3131 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix? Stop by to get plant lists and enjoy the 600-acre park.

### ✂ EASE UP ON CLEANUP

Allow plants to grow naturally to help create nesting places. Leave flowers to dry so birds can find the seeds. Leave a little litter. It's good for your plants and for insect-eating birds. Reduce or eliminate pesticide use and welcome beneficial bugs.



### ✂ GET CERTIFIED

The National Wildlife Federation certifies Backyard Wildlife Habitats. Find this and other certifications below:

## ✂ RESOURCES & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION:** How to create a wildlife-friendly garden and how to get certified - [nwf.org](http://nwf.org).

**WELCOME WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN:** This is a fantastic [Sonoran Desert guide](#) from City of Glendale.

**MONARCH WAYSTATION:** Southwest Monarch Study and creating waystations (a place for them to rest and feed during migration) - [swmonarchs.org](http://swmonarchs.org). Note that this October/November, Mesa Red Mountain Library is installing a Monarch Haven and Reading Sanctuary in an area east of the parking lot. Stay tuned for details.

#### **AUDUBON SOCIETY:**

- *Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center:* location and programs - [riosalado.audubon.org](http://riosalado.audubon.org).
- *Desert Rivers Audubon:* Offers education programs and Bird Habitat recognition - [desertriversaudubon.org](http://desertriversaudubon.org).
- *Audubon Healthy Yard Pledge:* [az.audubon.org/healthy-yard](http://az.audubon.org/healthy-yard).

**MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE:** Register gardens that support pollinators – [millionpollinatorgardens.org](http://millionpollinatorgardens.org).

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT:** Citizen Science project, provide data for researchers – [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org).

## \$START \$AVING

Start saving on your water bill while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our website for more sustainability savings tips at [mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://mesaaz.gov/sustainability).

*Learn to live Green*